

BALTIMORE SUN

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Letters to the Editor

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Two Reports

Sir: In the March 2 edition of one Baltimore paper, there appeared in large print on the first page the headline "Russia Has 'Cells' In CIA, State Dept., Defector Says." Quoting from the article that followed "A defector from the Soviet secret police has informed United States officials that Moscow has placed active 'cells' in the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department in Washington and overseas. . . ." What is almost as alarming as the above news is the following: "Instead of having his information used for the clean-out job he came here for, he charges, he has been thwarted by amateurs and 'Stalinists' in the CIA and even kept from communicating his plight to responsible higher officials here. . . ."

On March 3 *The Sun* had on its front page a headline "Report of Red Spies in U.S. Agencies Held Exaggerated." The story said that these reports are "not consistent with information given to the United States Government." However, the writer does not tell us who in the Government has given him this information. Pierre Salinger, White House press secretary stated only that "as a general practice we do not comment on intelligence matters." The FBI's official spokesman declared only that "we have no comment." At the State Department, a spokesman

said: "We haven't anything to say on it. Not one word." The Central Intelligence Agency gave out with the same: "Sorry, we have no comment." All of this arouses Americans, and quite naturally they ask the questions "Must this be?" and "Cannot the traitors be routed out and dismissed?" This certainly leaves the Baltimore reader in a quandary. Either he must want definite action taken, or he can shrug his shoulder and say "Much ado about nothing." Possibly such a striking example of difference of reporting by his two local papers is good for the Baltimorean. He will perhaps at last learn that it is not only in editorials that newspaper men attempt to mold the reader's opinion. Will Rogers once said, "All he knew is what he read in the papers." If the reader today thought that he knew all that appeared in all the papers with their different policies of reporting he could quickly develop a split personality that would present to the psychiatrist a problem that would be very difficult to straighten out. . . .

Leo Brady.

Baltimore, March 10.